

## **REMARKS**

The Applicant has resubmitted the amendments it made in Applicants January 21, 2004 Amendment and Response. Those amendments were not entered because the Applicant did not comply with certain formalities, namely, the applicant had submitted a new claim in underlined form and the applicant submitted the text of cancelled claims. In this response, the Applicant corrected said informalities.

The Applicant has amended the claims pursuant to Paragraph 10 of the Office Action mailed on October 22, 2003. The Applicant also thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of a phone call in which the Examiner indicated that the foregoing amendments would place the application in condition for allowance.

Specifically, the Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 25 to include all the limitations of cancelled Claims 8 and 6. Claim 10 now depends from Claims 1 and 25, which again include all the limitations of cancelled Claims 8 and 6. And, furthermore, consistent with the Examiner's instructions, Claim 12 depends from Claim 10, Claim 16 depends from Claim 12, Claim 18 depends from Claim 12, and Claim 18 depends from Claim 18.

Dependent Claims 9, 11, 14, 17, 19, and 22 all depend either directly or indirectly to the currently amended Claims 1 or 25, and therefore, are in condition for allowance.

Finally, new Claim 26 is an independent claim having all the limitations of former Claim 7 and former Claim 25, and as such is condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner in Paragraph 10, line 2 of the October 22, 2003 Office Action.

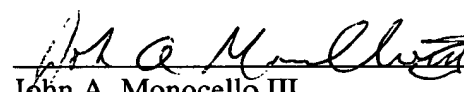
*Serial No. 09/145,690*  
*Amdt. dated February 20, 2004*  
*Reply to Office Action of February 10, 2003*

Applicant respectfully submits that the patent application and the claims, as amended, therein are in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of all rejections is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims at an early date is solicited.

Applicant would appreciate the courtesy of a telephone call should the Examiner have any questions or comments with respect to this response or the claim language for purposes of efficiently resolving same.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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